

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital camera comprising:

(a) a housing provided with a plurality of lens groups movable along an optical axis in accordance with an instructed magnification;

(b) an image sensor disposed for receiving light through the lens groups and producing an electronic information in accordance therewith;

(c) a memory connected to the image sensor for receiving and storing data in accordance with the electronic information received from the image sensor; and

(d) a controller electronically controlling the memory and movement of the lens groups, the controller having program logic defining a plurality of operation modes, the logic upon initiation determining an operation mode, and if the mode is determined to be an image recording mode, the logic causing the controller to commence moving the lens groups to initialization positions and ~~performs~~perform initialization processing for enabling image recording, and after completion of the initialization processing for enabling image processing, if a

command is received for image recording before the lens groups have arrived at the initialization positions, ~~controls~~ control the memory to store data in accordance with the electronic information presently available from the image sensor.

2. (Currently Amended) The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ program logic causes the controller to initialize the image sensor and memory for image recording.

3. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 2, further comprising a display device controlled by the controller, the program logic upon initialization, initializing the display device for displaying information.

4. (Currently Amended) The digital camera according to claim 3, wherein the ~~said~~ display device is a display or an LED.

5. (Currently Amended) The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ lens groups comprise a zoom lens group which moves in accordance with an instructed magnification and a focus lens group for focusing, the ~~said~~ controller controlling ~~said~~ the focus lens group to follow movement of ~~said~~ ~~zoom~~ lens

~~during the movement of said~~ the zoom lens group to an initialization position.

6. (Currently Amended) The digital camera according to claim 5, further comprising a detector in electronic communication with the controller, the detector detecting a movement amount of the ~~said~~ zoom lens group, and the ~~said~~ controller controlling movement of the focus lens group in accordance with the ~~a~~ movement amount detected by said detector.

7. (Currently Amended) The digital camera according to claim 6, wherein the ~~said~~ detector is formed by a cord plate and a terminal.

8. (Currently Amended) The digital camera according to claim 6, wherein the detector detects step movement, each step corresponding to a movement range of the ~~said~~ zoom lens group from a retracted position to the ~~an~~ initialization position divided into a substantially equal number of intervals, with step movement information being provided to the controller for movement of the focus lens group in accordance therewith.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for activating a digital camera having a plurality of lens groups which move in accordance with an instructed magnification, and an image sensing system disposed for receiving an image from the lens groups and producing an electronic information representing the image, the method comprising:

(a) determining an operation mode upon power initiation;
and

(b) if the operation mode is an image recording mode, then:

(i) initializing the image sensing system for receiving the ~~an~~-image from the lens groups and producing the electronic information representing the image;

(ii) moving the lens groups to initialization positions; and

(iii) if a command is received to record the ~~an~~-image prior to the lens groups arriving at the initialization positions, and after completion of initializing the image sensing system, recording the ~~an~~-electronic information representing the ~~an~~-image, presently available from the image sensing system.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein recording the electronic information representing the ~~an~~-image includes storing data in a memory in accordance with the electronic information.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein recording the electronic information representing the ~~an~~-image includes displaying the ~~an~~-image in accordance with the electronic information on a display device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~said~~-lens groups comprise a zoom lens group which moves in accordance with the ~~an~~-instructed magnification and a focus lens group for focusing, wherein moving the lens groups to the initialization positions ~~includes~~-include moving the ~~said~~-focus lens group to follow movement of the ~~said~~-zoom lens group during the movement of the ~~said~~-zoom lens group to the ~~an~~-initialization position.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein moving the ~~said~~-focus lens group to follow the movement of the ~~said~~-zoom lens group includes detecting a

movement amount of the ~~said~~ zoom lens group using a detector.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein detecting the a-movement amount includes:

dividing a range of the ~~said~~ zoom lens group into a plurality of steps, said range being from a retracted position to the ~~an~~ initialization position, and storing movement amounts of the focus lens group corresponding to respective steps; and

reading the a-movement amounts of the focus lens group corresponding to the a-step detected by the ~~said~~ detector and moving the ~~said~~ focus lens group.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a digital camera having a plurality of lens groups movable in accordance with an instructed magnification, and an image sensing system disposed for receiving an image from the lens groups and producing an electronic information representing the image, the method comprising:.

(a) determining if an operation mode has changed; and

(b) if the operation mode has changed to ~~is~~ an image recording mode, then:

(i) initializing the image sensing system for receiving the ~~an~~ image from the lens groups and producing the electronic information representing the image;

(ii) moving the lens groups to initialization positions; and

(iii) if a command is received to record the ~~an~~ image prior to the lens groups arriving at the initialization positions, and after completion of initializing the image sensing system, recording the ~~an~~ electronic information representing the ~~an~~ image, presently available from the image sensing system.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the camera includes a memory and initializing the image sensing system includes initializing the memory for storing data in accordance with the electronic information from the image sensing system.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the camera includes a display device, and wherein enabling image-recording electronic information representing the image includes enabling display of the an-image in accordance with the electronic information from the image sensing system.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the said-lens groups include a zoom lens group which moves in accordance with the an-instructed magnification and a focus lens group for focusing and commencing movement of the lens group includes:

moving said focus lens group which moves to follow the movement of the said-zoom lens group during the movement of the said-zoom lens group to the initialization positions.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein moving the said-focus lens group to follow movement of the said-zoom lens group includes detecting a movement amount of the said-zoom lens group using a detector.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein detecting the a-movement amount of the zoom lens group includes:

dividing a range of said zoom lens group into a plurality of steps, said range being from a retracted position to the an-initialization position, and storing movement amounts of the said-focus lens group corresponding to respective steps; and

reading the a-movement amounts of the said-focus lens group corresponding to the a-step detected by the said detector and moving the said-focus lens group.